



United States Courts for the Ninth Circuit

# Public Information Office

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## NEWS RELEASE

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## **Senate Confirms Milan D. Smith, Jr. for Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals**

SAN FRANCISCO – The United States Senate today voted unanimously to confirm President Bush’s nomination of Southern California attorney Milan D. Smith, Jr. to serve as a judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

The roll call vote in favor of the confirmation was 93-0 with seven senators not voting. Mr. Smith is expected to receive his commission shortly. He will fill a judgeship vacant since June 30, 2004, when Judge A. Wallace Tashima took senior status.

The president nominated Mr. Smith on Feb. 14. The nomination was passed out of the Senate Judiciary Committee on May 4.

Mr. Smith had been managing partner of Smith Crane Robinson & Parker LLP in Torrance, a firm he helped found in 1972. He specialized there in transactions with emphasis on corporate, real estate and secured financing law. He began his legal career with O’Melveny & Myers in Los Angeles, where he was an associate from 1969 to 1972.

His professional career also includes an appointment to the governing board of the Los Angeles State Building Authority in 1984 by Gov. Deukmejian. He served as president until January 1992 and currently serves as general counsel to the authority. Gov. Deukmejian also appointed him to the California Fair Employment and Housing Commission, where he served from 1987 to 1991.

Mr. Smith received his J.D. from the University of Chicago Law School in 1969 and his undergraduate degree from Brigham Young University, graduating *cum laude*, in 1966. He served on the Board of Directors of the Brigham Young University Alumni Association from 1982 to 1986, including two years on the Executive Committee.

Mr. Smith is a member of the Deseret Trust Company of California, the Fraternity of Friends of the Music Center, and the Board of Visitors, School of Religion at Claremont Graduate School. He is the brother of U.S. Senator Gordon Smith of Oregon.

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The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals is authorized 28 active judgeships and currently has three vacancies. Nominations are now pending for all of the vacancies. Since taking office in 2001, President Bush has filled five judgeships on the court.

The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals hears appeals of cases decided by federal trial courts or state courts in Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington, plus the U.S. Territory of Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. For fiscal year 2005, the court reported 16,037 appeals filed.

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